

House-to-day it was said that for some unknown reason the Mexican Constitutionalist appeared to entertain a particular hatred for Spaniards. When questions were asked as to what would be done regarding the maltreatment of the Spanish, it was said that when the things like this happened in a war the settlement always came after the war was over. The President professed ignorance regarding the attitude of the Spanish government.

The government of Spain has little faith in the promises of the Constitutionalist leaders that the property of the hundreds of Spaniards deported from Torreón will be respected. The Foreign Office in Madrid is in possession of the reports from Spanish agents telling what happened to Spaniards property after four hundred Spaniards were expelled from Chihuahua in December. It shows that damage was done to the extent of hundreds of thousands of pesos.

Stores and Homes Looted.

In Chihuahua, as in Torreón, the Spaniards were the principal shopkeepers. They owned many of the largest businesses of the town and were prosperous. Their homes were among the finest in the city. After

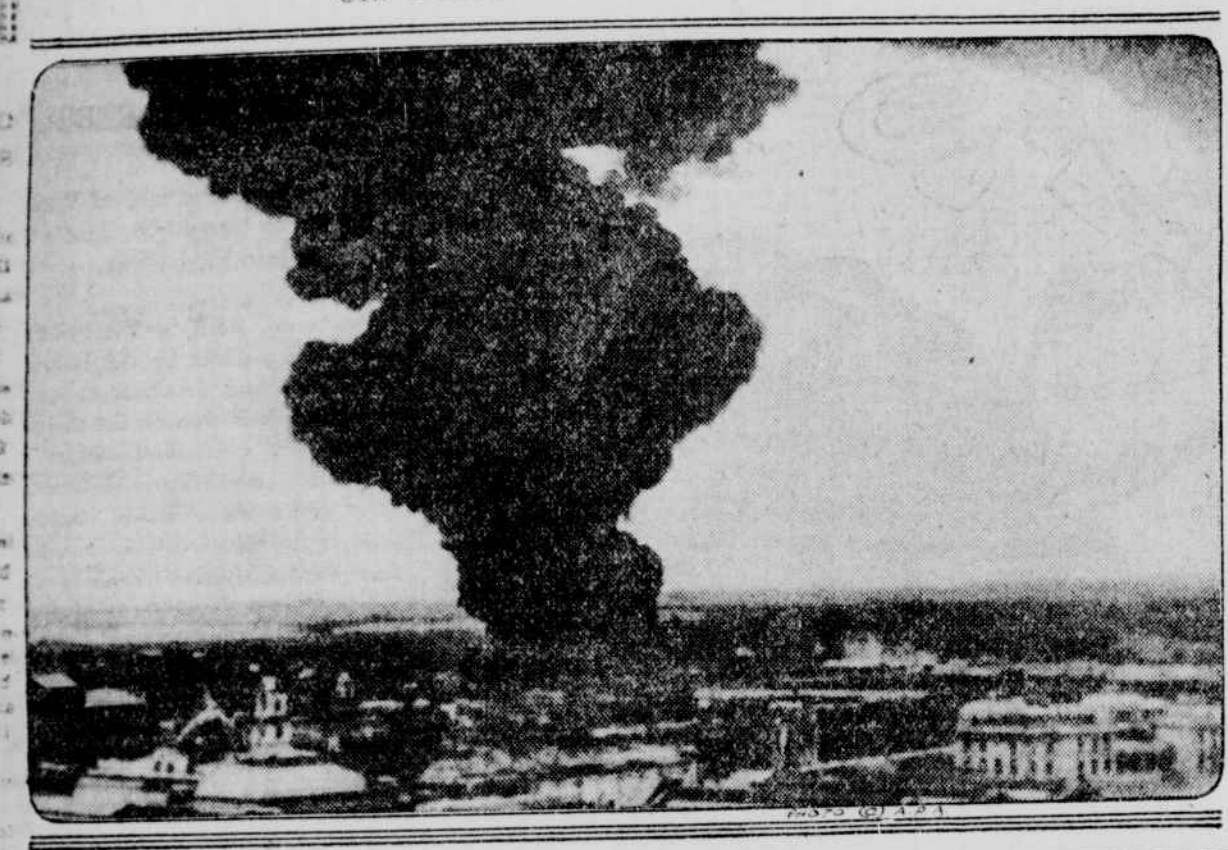
tion, the State Department is reticent. The dissatisfaction of Spain is likely. It is considered, to find sympathy and support in other quarters in Europe, and it is not at all improbable that the time will come soon when Europe generally will again become impatient and will once more make representations to the United States concerning conditions in Mexico.

Europe's Interests Suffering.

Last October the American government, agitated by European activity, asked all the powers of Europe, including Spain, to take no action in Mexico until the United States had announced its policy. Europe was led to believe that the administration in Washington contemplated a forward movement. Nothing, however, has been done. In the mean time, all European interests have suffered explanation, to say nothing of punishment, has been forthcoming, and at the moment European property of considerable value is being destroyed at Tampico.

It is not believed that Europe will remain quiescent much longer. It is believed the administration here realizes this and it is possible that after

OIL TANKS AT TAMPICO BURNING.



they had been driven from Chihuahua, with scarcely anything except what was on their backs, their places of business and their homes were looted and stripped of everything of value, and the vandals went so far as wantonly to destroy what they could not carry away. In fact, everything possible in the way of destruction was done. These facts have all been placed before the State Department.

Because of what happened at Chihuahua, the Spanish believe that the same looting is being repeated at Torreón, if it has not already happened. It is held by Spanish people in Washington that the allegations that Spaniards at Torreón engaged in the fighting or gave assistance to the Federalists are entirely untrue if for no other reason than that they had before them the example of what happened to their countrymen at Chihuahua. It is considered probable that the Spanish merchants furnished the Federal commanders with supplies, but only under compulsion and in the ordinary course of warfare. As for illegal participation, it is declared there was none, as it is not reasonable to suppose there could be any.

Spain has a treaty with Mexico which grants to Spanish subjects the right to reside in Mexico and to engage in business. The treaty, it is held, is being ruthlessly violated, and this is being urged upon the State Department.

Ulmer's Representations.

While Spain may not have done so yet, it is certain that a part of the representations which will be made will include a reference to the assurances which were given by the American consular agent at Torreón that the Spaniards would be protected, in consequence of which many of them remained in the city. Otherwise many might have escaped with some of their belongings. It is said here that few, if any, managed to take anything of value away with them.

Just how, when and why Mr. Ulmer gave these assurances, which appear to have been in writing, is not known, but it is supposed that either he or the State Department received some pledge from the Constitutionalist. It is not considered probable that Mr. Ulmer would on his own volition have posted such a notice in Torreón. In this matter, as in practically all others having to do with the more interesting and important phases of the Mexican situation,

the arrival of John Lind from Mexico next week the President will once more pay particular attention to Mexico, with a view to taking some step which will work toward a solution of the problem.

In connection with the Benton killing, The Tribune correspondent learns that the British Foreign Office, after a thorough investigation as was possible under the circumstances, believes that Benton was stabbed to death.

Furthermore, the best evidence obtainable indicates that Benton was killed in Villa's house and that his body was cremated in the back yard of the premises. The British agents have been able to procure no evidence whatsoever to indicate that there was any court-martial, as has been declared by the Constitutionalist.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Madrid, April 9.—Premier Dato expressed to-day in an interview the concern of the Spanish government on the subject of the recent developments in Northern Mexico. The Premier said that while only fragmentary information had been received, the reports that had reached Madrid about the expulsion of Spaniards gave cause for great anxiety. The government has already asked for a detailed report from the Ministers at Washington and Mexico City.

[By Telegram to The Tribune.]

Juarez, Mexico, April 9.—Despite the declaration of Villa that he would not confiscate the property of the Spaniards whom he drove out of Torreón, six carloads of cotton arrived here to-day, and ninety in all are expected forthwith, representing a value of more than 1,000,000 pesos.

All of it is the property of the Spanish exiles, and the rebels here will try to dispose of it either in El Paso or by shipping it in bond to England. Thus far no formal claims have been filed in Juarez by the owners of the cotton for its return to them.

Jeweller's Creditors Uneasy.

Creditors of Charles J. Fromberg, a diamond dealer, of 87 Nassau st., began an investigation yesterday into Fromberg's business affairs. Fromberg sold March 24, ostensibly for a business trip to Europe. His creditors became anxious and called on the jeweller's board of trade to investigate. An inventory of his affairs last January showed assets of \$27,150 and liabilities of \$3,822. Fromberg was a hotelkeeper and manufacturer of cloaks and umbrellas before he went into the diamond business.

TAMPICO BATTLE CAUSES BIG LOSS

Damage to Oil Companies from Burned Tanks Put at Millions.

GUNBOATS CHECK REBEL ADVANCE

Sixty American Women Rush to United States Warships for Safety.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Vera Cruz, Mexico, April 9.—Private wireless messages now being received paint the greatest excitement at Tampico and nearby towns.

The rebels, who took possession at Arbol Grande yesterday, after capturing the place, entrenched themselves behind tanks at the Waters-Pierce Oil Company

refinery there and started a hot fire at the Federal gunboats Vera Cruz and Zaragoza. These gunboats started a genuine bombardment of the refinery property, immediately setting fire to many of the tanks and destroying millions of dollars' worth of property.

Not only Waters-Pierce suffered, but other companies, including the Aquila with nearly all its possessions, also were hard hit. The Aquila Company's warehouse was destroyed with a loss of \$100,000. Six refined oil and 150 crude oil tanks were damaged, the oil running from these tanks out into the river. It was thought when the last wireless was sent from Tampico that the Waters-Pierce refinery would be a total loss, although efforts were being made to save some parts of the plant.

Arthur Clay Pierce is at St. Louis. He is said to have made stringent representations at the State Department in Washington.

An unconfirmed rumor here is that Rear Admiral Mayo has landed marines and also advised the commanders of the Mexican gunboats that no more bombardment will be allowed.

The Mexican gunboat Bravo, now here, is being loaded with 500 soldiers and arms and ammunition to capacity and will leave Vera Cruz for Tampico as soon as the prevailing northerly subsides. But the additional troops and the ammunition have been urgently requested by the Tampico garrison.

The entire city was said to be enveloped in smoke from the burning of tanks and warehouses set on fire by the shells from the gunboats.

The British steamer Teesdale, from New York, March 13, which is now at Tampico, has been unable to discharge her cargo, and has asked permission by wireless to come here.

Many shells from the Mexican warships Vera Cruz and Zaragoza have fallen near the American war vessels in the river. The gunboats are said to have been doing much unintended damage by bad marksmanship.

Rear Admiral Mayo, in a report filed at ten o'clock this morning from Tampico, says that the fighting continued, but that the fierce advance of the rebels was checked by the strong fire from the Zaragoza and Vera Cruz.

Sixty American women were on board the United States warships, and the German cruiser Dresden had gone further up river to rescue others.

The battleship Utah left here for Tampico at six o'clock this evening. Norman Lind, son of John Lind, was aboard.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, April 9.—The situation at Tampico, where the rebels are making an effort to wrest the seaport from the Federalists, is getting serious, according to a statement issued by the State Department to-day, particularly with regard to the destruction of foreign property. Government advisers show that the rebels have seized and are occupying the Waters-Pierce Oil refinery, which in consequence has been under fire from the Federalists and may be a total loss. Warehouses belonging to a German concern, called the Agencia Comercial, have been burned with a loss of \$50,000.

The War Department has informed the Navy Department that it has no transport available to send to Tampico for refugees who have sought safety on American vessels there, and it is probable that the navy will requisition a Ward liner for the purpose, as was done the last time that Tampico was attacked. There are now three American army transports at Galveston, but all are needed for the possible transportation of an army to Vera Cruz.

If the Navy Department does not make use of a merchant ship the refugees will be sent aboard the transport Prairie, now at Vera Cruz, which will be ordered to Tampico. Some may sail on the hospital ship Solace, which sails from New Orleans for Tampico to-night.

Rear Admiral Mayo, in command at Tampico, has informed Admiral Fletcher at Vera Cruz that reports are being circulated in Tampico, presumably by the Federalists, that the American ships are

frantically attempting to escape.

What Says Ben Franklin To-day?

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